

Chapter 516 A Joke

Melissa and Mona had met Egan several times and found him to be an outgoing person. It was surprising to see him lose his temper so easily.

Egan flexed his fingers and said, "Really? Didn't you just say that I have no mother to guide me? You wondered what kind of upbringing I had, right? So, today I'll teach you a lesson on behalf of my father."

Just as Egan was about to strike Ivanna again, Mercer appeared and stopped him.

"Egan! What in the world are you doing? Ivanna is your stepmother. You can't hit her."

Ivanna saw that someone was finally there to help her. She rushed into Mercer's arms and started crying.

Tears streamed down her face.

"I can't believe Egan did this! He hit me and now my mouth is bleeding."

Mercer frowned. "Did you say something to provoke him?"

"What did I say wrong? All I did was point out the obvious fact that he doesn't have a mother to guide him. But can you honestly deny that he's not your illegitimate child? It's the talk of the town, everyone knows it. Why can't I mention it?"

Mercer's face darkened as he finally understood why Egan was so angry.

When Egan was a child, he was fiercely protective of his mother and would not tolerate anyone insulting her. Even if Joyce said anything negative about his mother, he would leave home without uttering a single word. Ivanna was particularly not allowed to degrade or belittle his mother in any way.

"How dare you speak like that? I don't care how others talk about it, but as his stepmother, you shouldn't be saying something like that! Watch

your words!"

"You!"

Ivanna glared at Mercer. She finally realized that he and his son were on the same side and saw her as an outsider.

"I finally got it. You and your son are always nasty about Archy and me," Ivanna exclaimed, her voice filled with frustration. "Are you seriously considering leaving your entire fortune to that illegitimate child? Well, I'll leave with Archy."

Tears streamed down Ivanna's face as she took Archy's hand and stormed out.

She stopped periodically, as if hoping Mercer would apologize and ask her to stay, but he remained stubborn and resolute.

Eventually, Ivanna had no choice but to leave in a hurry, her high heels clicking against the floor.

Mercer's face darkened as he shifted his gaze from Egan, who remained silent throughout the ordeal, to Melissa and Mona. His eyes narrowed as he stared at them.

"I apologize for exposing you to such an unpleasant sight. It's a joke that often plays out within our family."

"It's fine."

Melissa felt it wasn't appropriate for her to leave when the argument was going on. So, she stood where she was and saw the whole scene from the beginning.

"A joke? Dad, am I nothing but a joke to you?"

Egan's eyes, which usually sparkled with life, now looked dull and lifeless. He looked at Mercer, waiting for an explanation.

Mercer's expression turned even darker. "I won't blame you for what you did to your stepmother, but you should reflect on yourself. Is it appropriate for you to act that way?"

After uttering those words, he turned around and walked away with a

glum expression.

Melissa stepped closer to Egan, hoping to offer some solace. However, Egan's voice dripped with bitter irony as he said, "I'm supposed to be a young member of the Carter family, but it seems like I'm nothing but a laughingstock to everyone."

"How could it be? I have never thought about you like that," Melissa replied, trying to console Egan.

Egan balled up his hands into fists and let out a bitter laugh. "I suppose it's become a tradition to mock me. I'm the constant source of amusement for everyone, aren't I?"

With that, Egan laughed and walked away, his figure fading into the distance.

Mona suddenly spoke up. "I feel like he has gone through a lot."

"It's not our concern. Let's head back."

As they were about to leave, someone suddenly called out to them.